This assessment was administered at the conclusion of a social studies lesson concerning the Age of Exploration, and specifically addressed the students’ abilities to identify the routes travelled by Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, and Ferdinand Magellan. Ninteen students participated in the lesson and completed several activities related to the material.

The assessment was implemented at the end of the lesson. I employed an interactive map to trace the routes of the three explorers and instructed the students to use colored pencils to recreate the route on a small atlas contained on the back of a mini booklet. The students were also instructed to create a map key and identify the explorer responsible for each route.

* Twelve of the ninteen students (63.2%) correctly identified the route of Christopher Columbus.
* Ten of the ninteen students (52.6%) correctly identified the route of Amerigo Vespucci.
* Eight of the ninteen students (42.1%) correctly identified the route of Ferdinand Magellan.

Eight students were able to correctly identify the routes of all three explorers, indicating mastery of the lesson material. Six students were able to identify between one and two of the required three, indicating partial mastery of the lesson material. Six students were unable to identify any of the routes. Two of these six students left the assessment portion of the mini booklet completely blank.

It is my perception that the presentation of the material was somewhat hurried and the students may not have been given appropriate time to navigate the websites that contained the majority of the lesson information. During the delivery of the lesson, approximately 15 minutes were spent introducing the students to Christopher Columbus and his route from Spain to the Bahamas, Cuba, Hispaniola, and back to Spain; approximately 10 minutes were spent discussing Amerigo Vespucci and the several voyages he took from Spain to the coast of South America and back to Spain; approximately 10 minutes were spent discussing Ferdinand Magellan and the journey that culminated in the circumnavigation of the Earth.

Interestingly, as the number of minutes devoted to each explorer decreased, so did the ability of the students to correctly identify that route.

This lesson was presented to the students exclusively through the use of online tools. Modifying the lesson for delivery in two sessions would permit instruction to proceed at a pace more suited to this type of instruction. Otherwise, I feel it would be necessary to review this material as an entire class and to spend additional time discussing Vespucci and Magellan. Additional scaffolding of lesson requirements would assist the special needs learners in this classroom. For example, I could use the document camera to guide the students in completing the first few pages of the mini booklet that contain the information needed for successful completion of the assessment portion of this lesson.